



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE UPDATE

UPDATE ON SEWER MAIN REPAIR ACTIVITIES IN FORT LAUDERDALE

December 23, 6:30 p.m.

Following is an update on sewer main repair activities on a 48-inch line in the Himmarshee Canal in Beverly Heights and a 54-inch line on SE 10 Street along the north side of Virginia Young Park in Rio Vista. In addition, below are updates on ongoing cleanup and remediation efforts in the Hector Park area along Ponce de Leon Drive in Rio Vista.

Operations in the Himmarshee Canal

- Industrial divers continue to work on underwater repairs to a 48-inch sewer main in the Himmarshee Canal in the vicinity of SE 2 Street and SE 9 Avenue.
- The leak is not impacting properties on land.
- Three aerators are operating at points along the Himmarshee Canal to help improve water quality.
- Neighbors are reminded that the Himmarshee Canal from S. Federal Highway to the New River remains under a precautionary advisory for recreational water-related activities. Swimming, fishing, jet-skiing, paddle-boarding, kayaking, canoeing, or engaging in any water-related activities within the precautionary advisory area should be avoided.
- To view a map of the precautionary advisory area, please visit <http://bit.ly/35l0DuC>.

Operations at Virginia Young Park

- With heavy overnight rain, the contractor continued to focus on stabilizing the pit around the break area to prevent spillage from entering the streets.
- Crews and vacuum trucks continued to remove standing water in the streets and swale areas in the vicinity of Virginia Young Park.
- Cliff Berry, Inc. (CBI) conducted cleaning and pressure washing activities in the affected area.
- The 36-inch bypass pipe, which runs from Hector Park over the SE 9 Avenue bridge to a point on the 54-inch pipe located just north of SE 9 Street, is assembled and in place.
- Saddles, valves, and line stop mechanisms are installed and ready to be deployed.
- Up to 8 inches of rain overnight has increased the flow and pressure in the wastewater collection system. Staff will continue to monitor the system for a point in time when flows and pressure reach levels that will enable crews to activate the bypass line.
- Stormwater crews cleaned and inspected storm drains, catch basins, and tidal valves and will remain on site during the overnight hours to monitor drainage and respond to potential flooding issues.
- Virginia Young Park remains closed while repair activities are taking place.
- Neighbors are reminded that the area in and around Virginia Young Park is an active construction zone.
- For the safety of everyone, access to the construction zone is limited to appropriate operational and management personnel.

Environmental Activities

- GHD Environmental conducted air quality testing in the affected area of the Rio Vista neighborhood around Virginia Young Park and Hector Park. Air quality test results did not detect the presence of any hazardous gases in the air related to the sewage spill.
- 14 aerators continued to operate 24/7 to help improve water quality in the Tarpon River, New River, and Himmarshee Canal.
- Boats continued to patrol the canal system in and around Rio Vista and in the Himmarshee Canal conducting skimming and debris removal on the waterways.

Cleanup and Remediation of Ponce de Leon Drive/Hector Park Area

- Operations to remove standing water in the vicinity of Hector Park from overnight rainfall continued throughout the day today.
- Stormwater crews cleaned and performed maintenance to catch basins, tidal valves, and storm drains in the Hector Park area to ensure they are unobstructed and operating properly.
- CBI conducted cleaning and pressure washing in the Ponce de Leon Drive and Hector Park areas.
- Hector Park remains closed to the public.
- Sand bags were removed from several areas around Hector Park as part of the cleanup and demobilization effort.

Garbage and Recycling Collection for Ponce de Leon Dr. between SE 9 Ave. and SE 12 Way

- Garbage and recycling collection will take place tomorrow, Tuesday, December 24, for properties in the affected area on Ponce de Leon Drive between SE 9 Avenue and SE 12 Way.
- Neighbors are asked to assist by placing their black garbage carts and blue recycling carts where they are easily visible, as close to the roadway as possible, but without blocking traffic on Ponce de Leon Drive. Carts must be placed out by 7:00 a.m.
- Collection service will be for black garbage carts and blue recycling carts only; no green yard waste carts will be collected.
- Neighbors in the affected area with questions about garbage or recycling collection may call the City's 24-Hour Neighbor Call Center at 954-828-8000.

Road Closures

- Roads in the immediate vicinity of Virginia Young Park are closed including a portion of SE 10 Street between SE 9 Avenue and Rio Vista Boulevard, and a portion of Rio Vista Boulevard between SE 9 Avenue and SE 9 Street. Local access will be maintained for residents.
- SE 9 Avenue is closed from south of the intersection at SE 8 Street to Ponce de Leon Drive.
- There is no access east of SE 9 Avenue at the intersections of SE 9 Street, SE 10 Street, South Rio Vista Boulevard, and the north side of Ponce de Leon Drive.
- The south side of Ponce de Leon Drive at SE 9 Avenue remains accessible.

Safety Tips

- Neighbors in the affected area are reminded to avoid contact with any standing water.
- If contact is made, please remember to follow proper hygiene procedures. Wash your hands with soap and warm water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer immediately after contact with wastewater, especially before preparing or eating food.
- Be sure to keep all children and pets away from any area affected by the wastewater spill.

-Keep a container or spray bottle outside residential entryways with a 90/10 solution (90% water to 10% household bleach) to clean shoes and other items that may have come into contact with wastewater.

Precautionary Advisory for Water-Related Recreational Activities

-A precautionary advisory for recreational activities in local waterways remains in effect.

-The boundaries are Broward Boulevard to the north, Poinciana Drive to the east, SE 15 Street to the south, and SW 18 Avenue to the west. Water-related activities including swimming, fishing, jet-skiing, paddle-boarding, kayaking, and canoeing should be avoided within these boundaries.

-To view a map of the precautionary advisory for water-related recreational activities, please visit <http://bit.ly/35l0DuC>.

For More Information

Neighbors are encouraged to stay up to date by visiting the City's website at www.fortlauderdale.gov or following the City on social media at:

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/CityofFortLauderdale/>

Twitter - <https://twitter.com/FTLCityNews>

Nextdoor – <https://www.nextdoor.com>

Neighbors may also call the City's 24-hour Neighbor Call Center at 954-828-8000.

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